

lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today just a few weeks in advance of the 75th anniversary of Social Security. This bedrock promise, earned with a lifetime of hard work, should be available for our Nation's seniors and future generations. However, my friends on the other side of the aisle are once again attempting to privatize Social Security.

Returning to previously rejected ideas, Republicans want to create a casino economy and play Russian roulette with your hard-earned benefits. If they had succeeded, for instance in 2005, seniors would have lost trillions more in the stock market meltdown of the Bush recession. Instead, nobody lost a penny of Social Security.

In the area that I represent, many people are hurting. Families and seniors are facing uncertainty and anxiety ranging from their mortgage payments, to credit card bills, and more. Let us not add to that anxiety by returning to failed ideas of the past. We must keep America moving forward.

There is a very clear choice here. We can hand the Social Security system over to Wall Street and continue raising anxiety, or we can strengthen the current system. I stand with our Nation's seniors to strengthen Social Security for the years to come.

PAKISTAN DISLOYAL ALLY?

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I heard from a Texan yesterday who was mad about why taxpayers are shelling out another \$500 million for Pakistan. Americans are already giving Pakistan \$1 billion a year. And Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said officials in Pakistan know where Osama bin Laden is hiding. Well, why don't they tell us where the terrorist of the desert, Osama bin Laden, is?

Isn't Pakistan supposed to be with us in this war in Afghanistan? And if they're not our ally, why are we giving them billions of taxpayer dollars? Now, in light of the illegal release of classified documents, Pakistan also appears to be taking our money and supporting our enemy, the Taliban. Maybe Pakistan isn't the loyal ally we pay them to be.

We should not be giving money we need here at home to countries that

are friends in public and thieves behind closed doors. As my colleague LOUIE GOHMERT says, "We don't have to pay these people to hate us. They will do it for free."

And that's just the way it is.

GUN LEGISLATION PRIORITIES

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, this week Congress will vote on the Protecting Gun Owners in Bankruptcy Act of 2010 under suspension of the rules. This bill permits individuals filing for personal bankruptcy to exempt firearms from the claims of creditors. Really?

Today, there is a House bill sponsored by 109 Members of Congress that would close the gun show loophole and keep guns out of the hands of terrorists, felons, and the mentally ill. Today, there is a bill sponsored by 37 Members of this Congress that would prohibit those on the terrorist watch list from purchasing firearms. Each bill is supported by mainstream America. Each bill would save lives. Have we called either bill to the floor for debate? No.

Yet Congress stands at the ready to enact new policy that would require a bankruptcy judge to sort assets into two piles: one pile for guns, one pile for all other personal belongings. We need to reassess our priorities and regain our common sense. It's a time to stop pandering and start acting responsibly.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB KILLING MORATORIUM ON AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight what the President's capricious and arbitrary moratorium on American energy production is doing to families.

The wife of a rig worker forwarded a letter to me that she sent to the President and to Secretary Salazar saying that while they may not need regular work, she and her family cannot keep going without jobs. Her family has bills to pay which are now 3 months behind, and they will lose almost everything they've ever worked for as a result of this arbitrary moratorium on energy production.

Her husband relies on rig exploration jobs, and even sent copies of their bills. She said her bank will not wait out the moratorium to receive her mortgage payment of over \$3,000 past due. She said her family will probably lose their cars. They won't even have a car to live in if this thing persists.

Due to the moratorium, her husband lost a 30-day exploration job that would pay \$732 a day, a total of \$21,960

for 30 days. This is an arbitrary and malicious moratorium, and it needs to end.

WAKE UP, AMERICA

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Wake up, America. WikiLeaks' release of secret war documents gave us 92,000 reasons to end the wars. Pick one.

Wake up, America. Main Street is falling apart, businesses have closed, bankruptcies abound, people are losing their jobs, their homes, losing their retirement security, the middle class is falling apart, workers' rights are not being protected, the government's out of money. There's not even money for childhood nutrition.

Wake up, America. There's unlimited money for war, money for a corrupt government in Afghanistan. When U.S. money is not going to the Karzai mob's personal use, it goes to help the Taliban kill our troops. There's money for a corrupt government in Pakistan, which helps the Taliban in Afghanistan kill our troops. Meanwhile, our troops are committing suicide in record numbers.

Wake up, America. How can we solve the world's problems if we can't solve our own problems here at home?

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WE MUST FIGHT AGAINST THE COMING TAX INCREASES

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. The update of the President's budget estimates released Friday shows Washington still has not gotten the message. Dangerous economic and fiscal policies are not helping our country. They're resulting in deficit, debt, and an economy which continues to struggle.

Now after 18 months of government takeovers, Congress is positioned to allow the largest tax increase in history on American families and small businesses to take effect next year. January 1, 2011, every single tax bracket will increase. That means if a small business in Grand Island, Nebraska, paid 35 percent in Federal taxes this year, next year it will have to pay nearly 40 percent. When Times Square celebrates a new year, Americans who own a farm or ranch will see death taxes rise from 0 to 55 percent.

We cannot tax and spend our way back to a healthy economy. I urge my colleagues to join me against any tax increase on working families, small businesses, and farmers and ranchers before they wake up on January 1 to a brave new world.